

HOUSE RESOLUTION 322

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dan Smith of Wilson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dan Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dan Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Wilson County, Dan Smith moved to a farm in the Greenwood community just south of Lebanon with his parents, Andrew William and Fannie Sullivan Smith, in 1942; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Lebanon High School, Dan Smith worked his entire life as a farmer and continued to work his family farm until the time of his passing, raising cattle, primarily Angus, along with hay and permanent pasture on 360 acres. He was once among Wilson County's leading burley tobacco producers and at one time raised Tennessee Walking Horses and several Southeast champion steers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a charter member of the Wilson Farmers Cooperative in 1949 and in 1953, was elected to the organization's board of directors, on which he served for the next forty-two years. He was elected to the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative board in 1972 and served nine years, receiving that group's esteemed Cooperative Spirit Award; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader in his community, Dan Smith was a valued board member of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperation, which he had served since 1971; he served for twenty-two years as sergeant-at-arms for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting and as chief sergeant; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in youth and young farmer activities in Tennessee, Mr. Smith was an FFA member and in 1949, received that organization's highest honor, the American Farmer Degree; he was also a charter member and first president of Wilson County's Young Farmers and Homemakers organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a past president of Wilson County Farm Bureau, a position he held for ten years, and a member of its board of directors for over forty years. He served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service County Board for several years and completed a three-year term on the advisory committee for Co-Bank in Louisville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Dan Smith was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2009, and he and his wife were awarded a Life Time Membership in the Wilson County Livestock Association; and

WHEREAS, Dan Smith was an active and devout member of Bethel Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of over fifty-five years, Vondie Tarpley Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dan Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Dan Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.